

Message Text

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ATTENTION: S/NM: DEA ATTN: TRI: CUSTOMS, ATTN INTERNATIONAL
TRAINING OPERATIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, HK
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: STATE 284346

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S NARCOTICS CONTROL
TRAINING FACILITIES SUBMITTED AS REQUESTED REFTEL:

(A) THE TWO HKG AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL,
ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND HONG KONG PREVENTIVE SERVICES, DO
NOT HAVE TRAINING FACILITIES SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR
ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK.

(B) BOTH AGENCIES, HOWEVER, HAVE INTEGRATED INTO THEIR
EMPLOYEE TRAINING INTENSIVE COURSES IN ANTI-NARCOTICS
OPERATIONS. TRAINING IS OF UNIFORMLY HIGH QUALITY
REFLECTED IN THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE NATURE OF THEIR ANTI-
NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

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(C) GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING IS CONDUCTED AT
THE POLICE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES TRAINING FACILITIES.
EACH SERVICE OPERATES ITS OWN ACADEMY, CONDUCTING INITIAL
SIX-MONTH COURSES AND BOTH PROVIDE MORE SENIOR OFFICERS
WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER THEIR TRAINING AFTER A
PERIOD OF SERVICE.

(D) TRAINING STANDARDS OF BOTH ACADEMIES ARE HIGH AND A NUMBER OF THE SENIOR EXPATRIATE INSTRUCTORS RECEIVED THEIR INITIAL TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA.

(E) HKG HAS NOT ACTIVELY SOUGHT MAJOR ASSISTANCE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES FOR THE TRAINING OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, BUT HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF COURSES AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD. AT LEAST TEN SENIOR POLICE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES OFFICERS HAVE HAD SOME TRAINING IN THE U.S. THIS INCLUDES THE TWO-WEEK DEA COURSE, THE SIX-WEEK DEA COURSE, THE TEN-WEEK DEA COURSE, THE TWELVE-WEEK IPA COURSE, CUSTOMS NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG TRAINING, AND THE DEA FORENSIC CHEMISTS COURSE. THREE SENIOR PREVENTIVE SERVICES OFFICERS HAVE ALSO ATTENDED THE CCINC CUSTOMS PROGRAM I (VIP) AS WELL. OFFICERS ALSO PARTICIPATE IN COURSES GIVEN IN THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA. HKG OFFICERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAINING THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, PRIMARILY IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND U.N. CONFERENCES. INDICATIVE OF THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH THE HKG IS HELD, THE U.N. HAS APPROACHED THE HKG CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF THE COLONY'S FACILITIES AND OFFICERS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL TO BE HELD IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY, 1977.

(F) RESULTS ARE, OF COURSE, DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, BUT BEST MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS ARE THAT PRICES OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS HAVE INCREASED FIVE TIMES OVER THE PAST THREE
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YEARS AND THAT MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS HAVE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, CEASED BECAUSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESSURE.

(G) THE SOPHISTICATED NATURE OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS SERVICES IN HONG KONG MAKE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE HKG WOULD ACCEPT A FULL-SCALE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TRAINING PROGRAM.

(H) WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE HKG ON MATTERS RELATING TO ILLICIT NARCOTICS. ON ASPECT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP WOULD INVOLVE KEEPING THE HKG ADVISED ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND TECHNIQUES IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, BEARING IN MIND THE HIGH LEVELS OF PROFESSIONALISM AND SOPHISTICATIMN FOUND IN THE CONCERNED HKG AGENCIES. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND APPROACHING THE HKG FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP EXTENSIVE TRAINING CURRICULA.

(I) HKG HAS DEMONSTRATED BOTH A WILLINGNESS AND A CAPABILITY TO HOLD REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINARS. NUMEROUS INTERCHANGES ARE MADE WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COLONY. DUE TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG NOT RPT NOT BECOME ENGAGED IN ANY MOVES TO FURTHER INVOLVE THE HKG IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS, BUT RATHER ALLOW THE HKG TO INITIATE ALL ACTION DIRECTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. CROSS

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